

Relationships are hard work! It can be difficult to make togetherness a top priority, but at the core of the matter is our love for Christ. He provides a basis upon which we can have healthy, life-giving relationships.

Today's Timeless Truth:
Keeping togetherness a priority requires us to maintain a commitment to and connection with Jesus Christ. *1 John 4:17*

Togetherness can't exist without truth. We are created to have deep and meaningful relationships with both God and those around us. This can only happen if we are plugged into the only true source of love, Jesus Christ. *1 John 4:1-6; John 1:17*

Togetherness reveals our connection to God. Our commitment to model the love of Christ in our relationships demonstrates a real, life-giving relationship with Him.
1 John 4:7-10; James 2:14-18

Togetherness makes God visible to others. Though no one has ever seen God, how we love each other testifies to His presence in our lives and makes His love real to those seeking Him. *1 John 4:11-18*

Togetherness testifies of the love we have for God. Obedience means faithfully maintaining connection to others.
2 John 1:6 – “Love means doing what God has commanded us, and he has commanded us to love one another, just as you heard from the beginning.” **1 Peter 1:22; 1 John 4:19-21**

Relationships take work!
• **Commit to making them a high priority.**
Matthew 5:23

• **Care by lovingly watching out for others.** *Romans 14:21*

• **Cultivate connection faithfully.** *Hebrews 10:25*

• **Contest to keep them.** *Matthew 5:9*

Relationships are the fiber of the Church. They are worth our time, energy, sacrifice and even fighting for if necessary. This is our call as Christians.

The closer we get to people the more we see their flaws and face challenges to genuine community. Like a ship loaded down in a storm, if we don't lighten the load, our relationships will sink. What things do you need to throw overboard so that your load is lightened and your relationships reflect God's best?

Today's Timeless Point:
Those who keep togetherness a priority stay connected to each other because of their commitment to God.

Discussion Questions:

1. What are some specific things that make it difficult for you to maintain togetherness? Reasons can range from insecurity to indifference. What challenges you? How have these things hurt your ability to stay connected in the past?

2. How well are you able to commit to togetherness now? What are some ways that we can help each other stay connected? How can we encourage others who are struggling to maintain their commitment to one another?

3. What are some positive, practical effects of healthy relationships in our lives? How can these speak to those who do not yet know Christ? What needs to change in your relationships for these things to be true?